

MARVEL

#235

DAVID
KIRK
MILLA

X-FACTOR



Founded by Jamie Madrox and staffed by a group of the best mutant heroes around, when superhumanity needs a detective agency, they call on X-Factor Investigations.

X-FACTOR

MULTIPLE MAN



JAMIE MADROX
Self-Duplication

BUTTERFLY



LAYLA MILLER
Resurrection

SHATTERSTAR



GAVEEDRA SEVEN
Teleportation

RICTOR



JULIO RICHTER
Seismic Control

STRONG GUY



GUIDO CAROSELLA
Strong Guy

M



MONET ST. CROIX
Telepathy, Flight, Super-Strength, Invulnerability, Telekinesis

BANSHEE



THERESA CASSIDY
Sonic Scream, Suggestion

WOLFSBANE



RAHNE SINCLAIR
Werewolf

LONGSHOT



Luck

PIP THE TROLL



PIP GOFERN
Troll

HAVOK



ALEX SUMMERS
Cosmic Energy Blasts

POLARIS



LORNA DANE
Magnetic Control

PREVIOUSLY

The death of Jamie Madrox created a leadership vacuum in X-Factor. Since nature abhors a vacuum, it sucked in not only Havok and Polaris, but also Madrox himself, returned from what turned out to be a bizarre voyage through a series of alternate universes. Now Madrox and Havok are trying to find a way to coexist, and there's major danger brewing in Seattle.

MEANWHILE: Peter, along with his daughters Caroline and Ariel and endlessly patient wife, Kathleen, attended an "Avengers vs. X-Men" launch party at Fourth World Comics, the best comics shop on Long Island. A great time was had by all. You should have been there.

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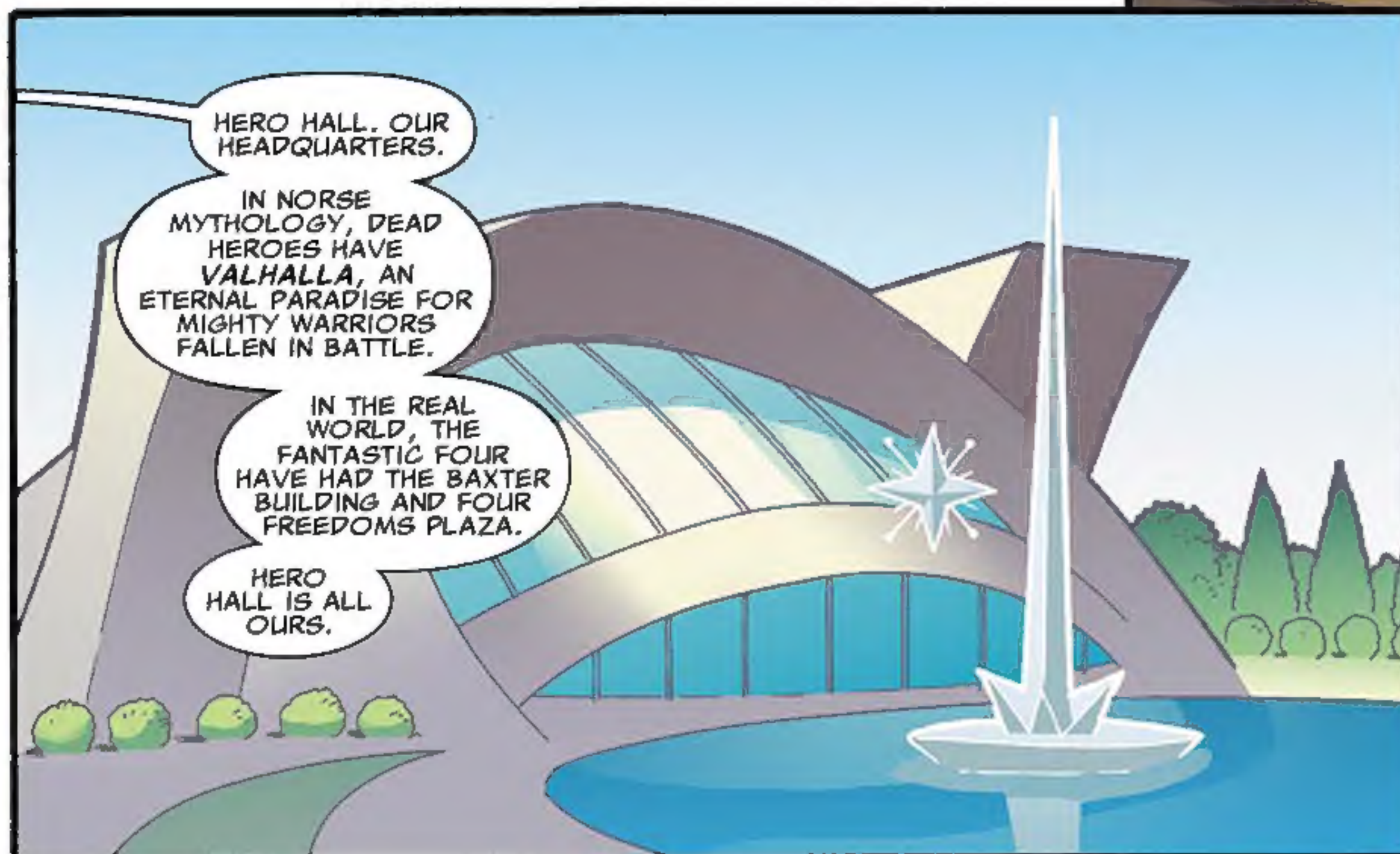
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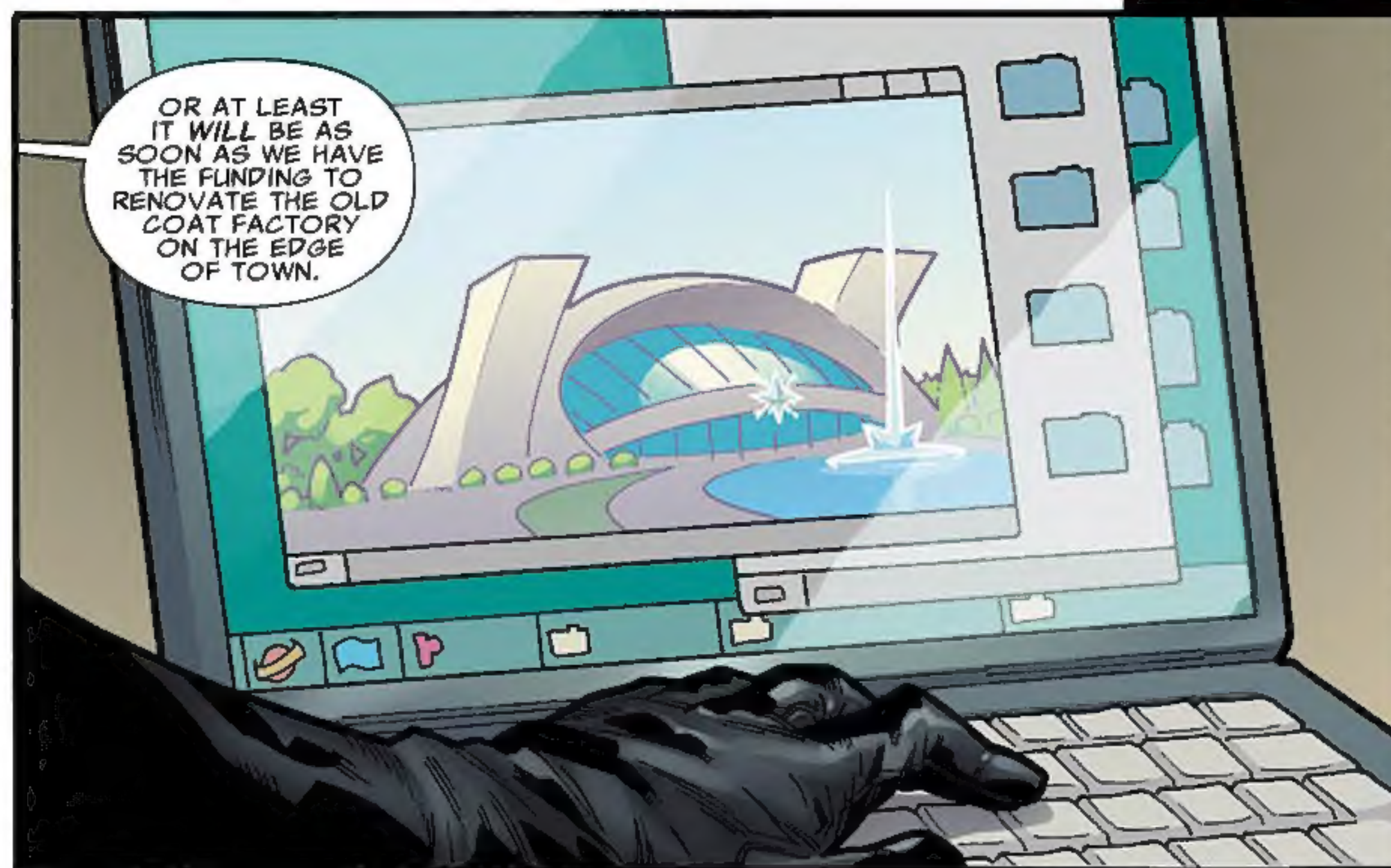


HERO HALL. OUR HEADQUARTERS.

IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, DEAD HEROES HAVE VALHALLA, AN ETERNAL PARADISE FOR MIGHTY WARRIORS FALLEN IN BATTLE.

IN THE REAL WORLD, THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE HAD THE BAXTER BUILDING AND FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.

HERO HALL IS ALL OURS.



OR AT LEAST IT WILL BE AS SOON AS WE HAVE THE FUNDING TO RENOVATE THE OLD COAT FACTORY ON THE EDGE OF TOWN.



AND HOW ARE YOU GOING ABOUT GETTING THE MONEY?

WE'VE MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN ON KIXSTART. WE ONLY NEED A HUNDRED GRAND, AND WE'RE ALREADY UP OVER TWO THOUSAND BUCKS.

PEOPLE HERE IN SEATTLE BELIEVE IN US, YOU SEE.

THEY BELIEVE IN...

THE X-CEPTIONALS!

MUTANT HEROES FOR JUSTICE!

AND MEANTIME YOU'RE HERE, IN YOUR MOTHER'S PARTLY RENOVATED BASEMENT.

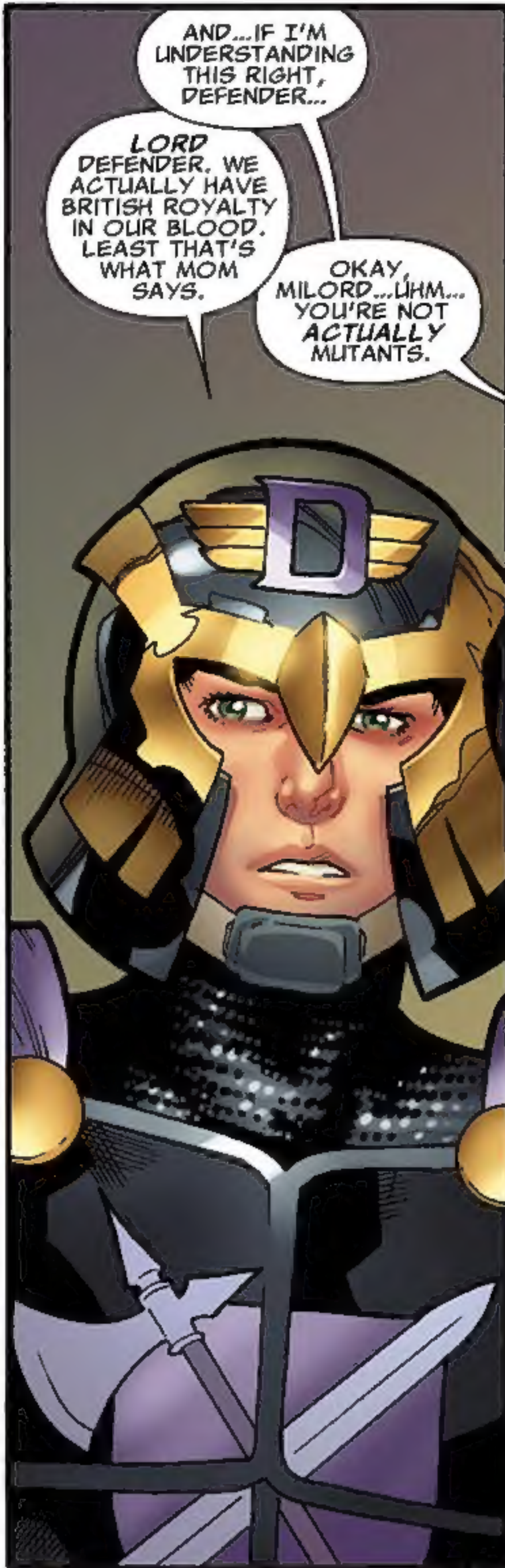
I OWN THE HOUSE. IT'S MY BASEMENT. SHE'S JUST BEEN LIVING HERE SINCE DAD AND HER SPLIT UP.

I'M BEING GENEROUS. THE X-CEPTIONALS ARE ALL ABOUT GENEROSITY, AND THAT STARTS AT HOME.

HE'S SENSITIVE ABOUT THE WHOLE "MOTHER'S BASEMENT" THING.

SHUT UP, FAR SIGHT. I AM NOT.





AND...IF I'M UNDERSTANDING THIS RIGHT, DEFENDER...

LORD DEFENDER, WE ACTUALLY HAVE BRITISH ROYALTY IN OUR BLOOD. LEAST THAT'S WHAT MOM SAYS.

OKAY, MILORD...UHM... YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY MUTANTS.



OUR MUTANT GENES ARE RECESSIVE. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

NO. NO, NOT AT ALL.

GOOD. NOW WHERE THE HELL ARE CHROME DOME, E-VAC, AND THE HOOK? WE NEED A QUORUM TO GET THIS MEETING STARTED.



I FORESEE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE COMING... EVER.

THEY NO LONGER WISH TO BE PART OF THE GROUP.

I AM AWARE OF THIS BECAUSE I KNOW--

STUFF?

--THINGS.



SADLY, I'M NOT SURPRISED. WHAT WITH THE RECENT... UNPLEASANTNESS.

SO OKAY, GUYS, YOU'RE IN. STAR FACE... MULTITASK... WELCOME TO THE X-CEPTIONALS.

THANK YOU.

A WORD OF ADVICE, THOUGH...



YOUR SUPER HERO COSTUMES? KINDA LAME.

SORRY.
WE'LL TRY
TO DO
BETTER.

I WAS
THINKING
OF ADDING
SHOULDER
PADS.

THAT'D
BE A GOOD
START.

X-TREME MEASURES

PART 1 OF 2

A WEEK EARLIER...

"I WISH YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN BARRY. HE WAS SUCH A GOOD BOY. A GOOD HEART. HE HAD A WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF HIM."

"THEN HE GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS... THIS INSANITY."

"MRS. SANTANA, I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT, BUT IF YOU JUST STAY FOCUSED..."

"YES, OF COURSE. I'M SORRY, MR. SUMMERS. SO..."

"SO I WAS AT HOME, TRYING NOT TO WORRY LIKE I ALWAYS DID WHEN BARRY WAS OFF WITH HIS FRIENDS."

"AND THEN I HEARD..."

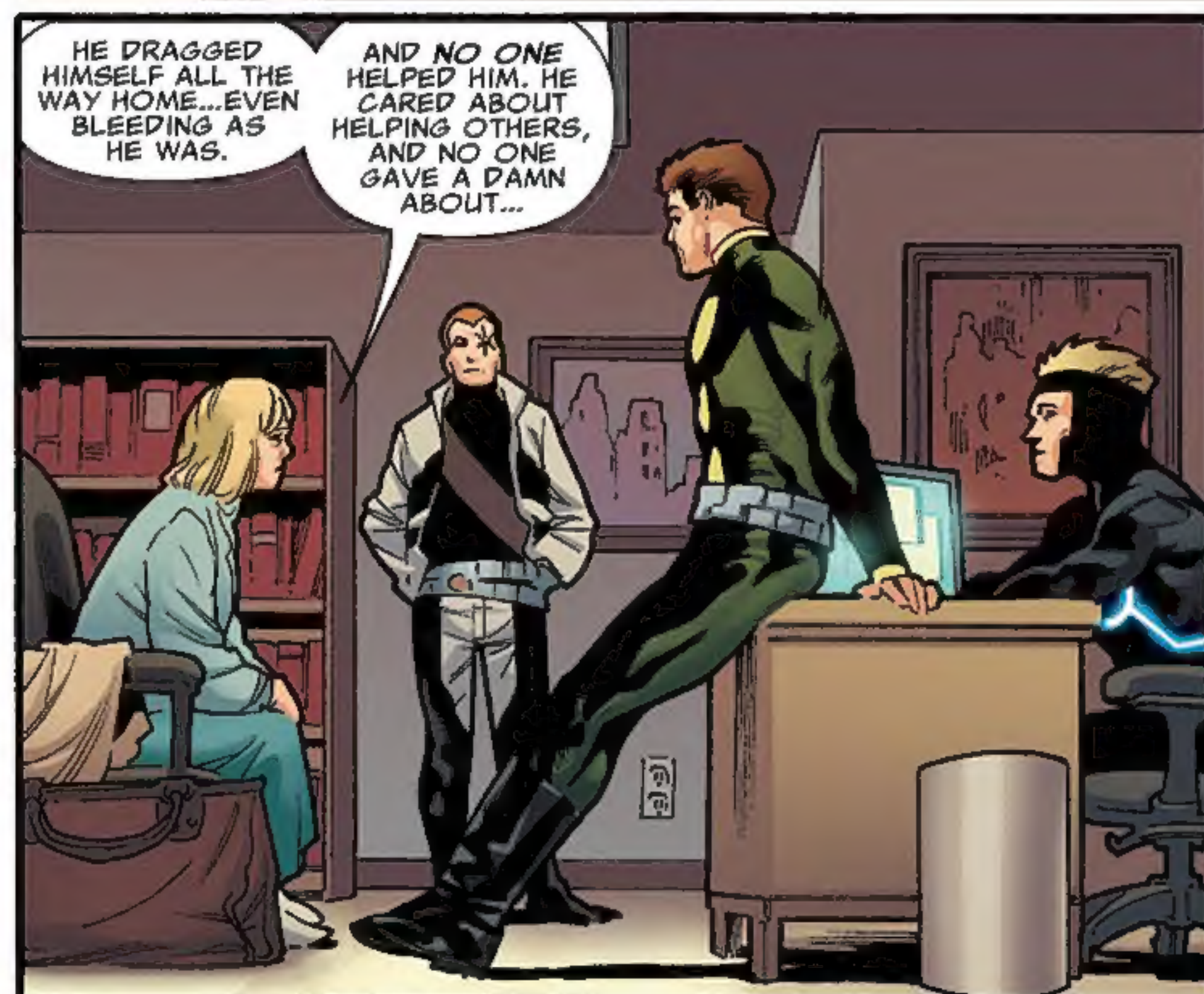
"IT WASN'T EVEN A KNOCK. INSTEAD IT WAS LIKE...LIKE SOMEONE WAS SLAPPING A DEAD FISH AGAINST THE DOOR."

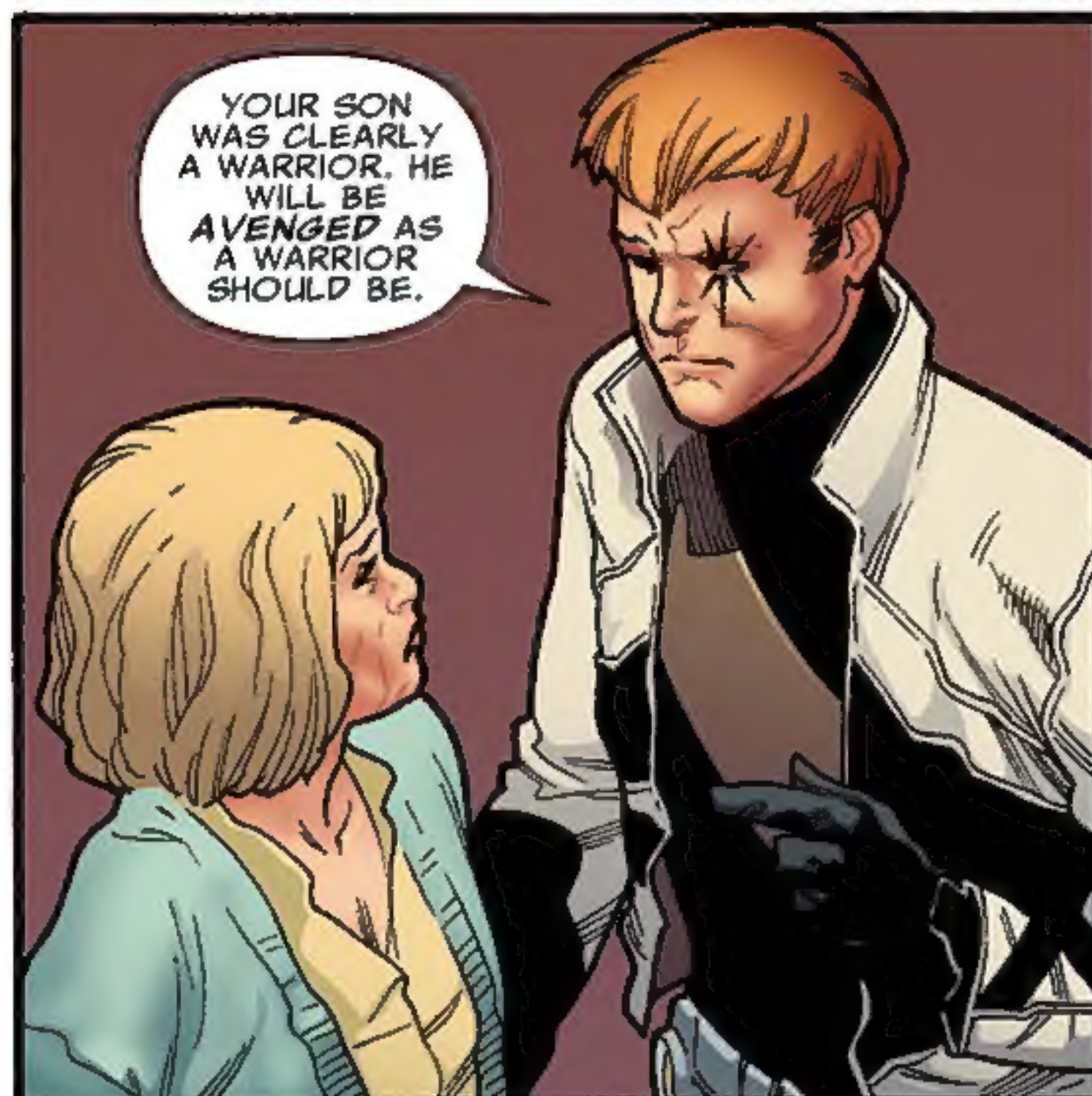
"AND I OPENED IT, AND..."

"...AND IT WAS JUST...THE BLOOD WAS EVERYWHERE."

"I HAD...I HAD NO IDEA...I MEAN... WHO KNEW THAT PEOPLE HAD THAT MUCH BLOOD IN THEM?"

"I DID. SIX QUARTS."







MADROX, I'M ALL FOR HELPING PEOPLE.

GOOD TO KNOW.

BUT OUR JOB IS TO STEP IN WHEN OTHER OPTIONS HAVE BEEN USED UP.

OR WHEN VAL COOPER OR WOLVERINE PULLS OUR LEASH?

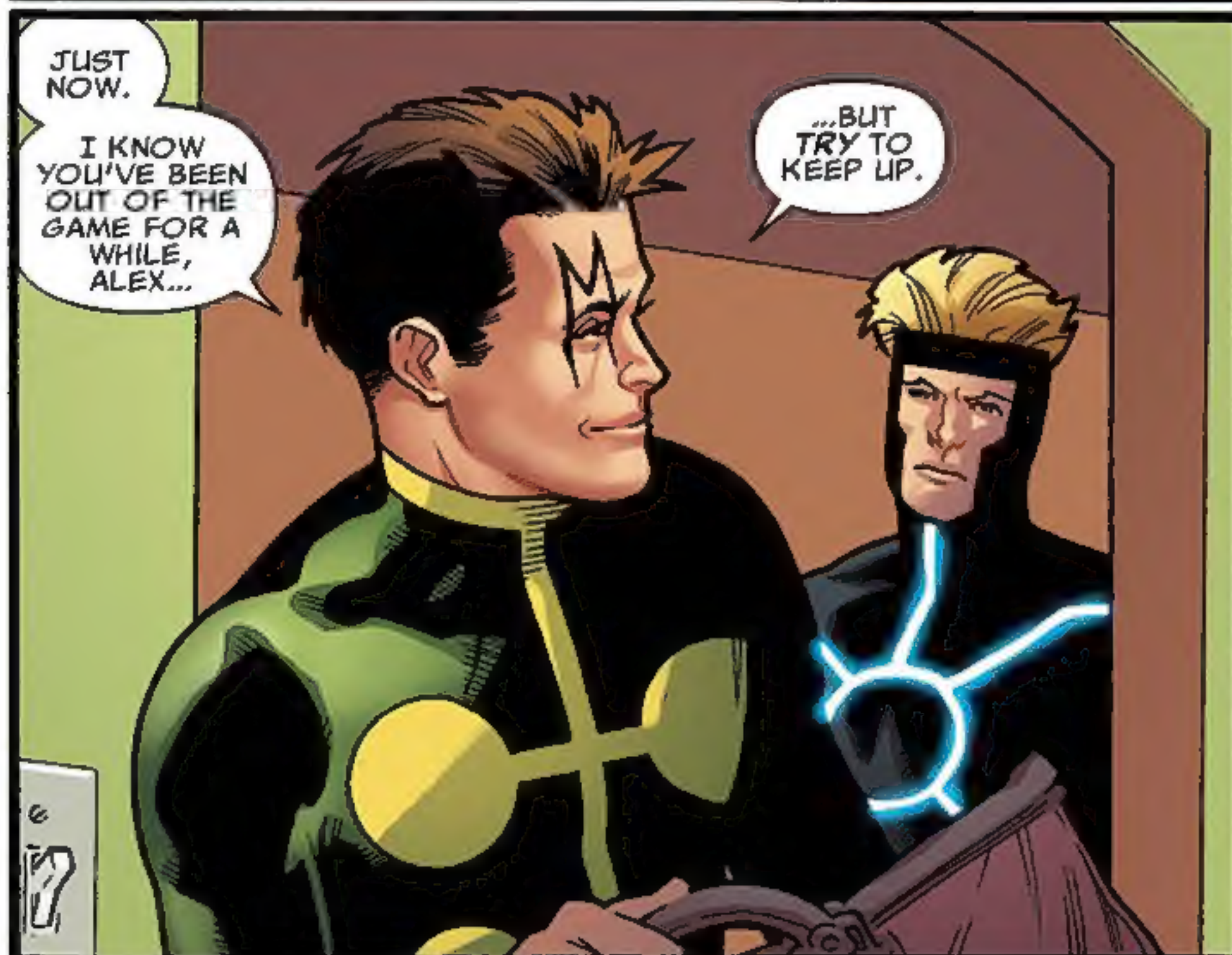


ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM HERE, MADROX?

DEPENDS IF YOU'RE GOING TO HONOR OUR AGREEMENT. YOU TAKE POINT WHEN ONE OF THE X-MEN COME CALLING, AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME.



AAAAAAND WHEN DID WE MAKE THAT AGREEMENT?



JUST NOW.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF THE GAME FOR A WHILE, ALEX...

...BUT TRY TO KEEP UP.



MEMO TO SELF: BUILD TIME MACHINE, GO BACK IN TIME...

...AND PASS ON THE X-FACTOR GIG.



SO THIS "SHUTTERBUG" WAS PART OF A TEAM OF MUTANT WANNABES?

WORST NAME FOR A GAME SHOW...

...EVER.

WHO WANTS TO BE A MUTANT?



OKAY. WE'RE GOOD TO GO.

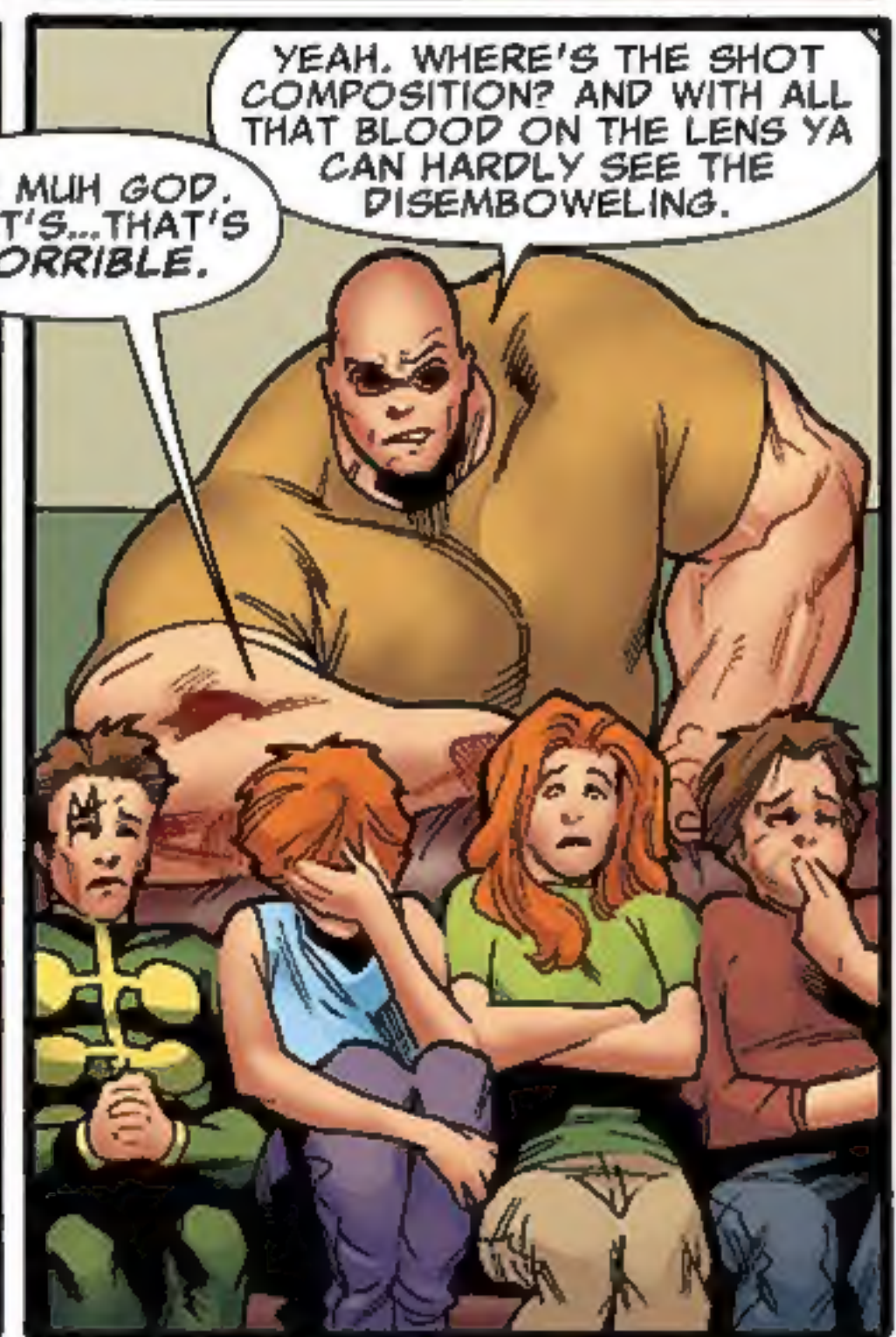
FROM WHAT THE KID'S MOTHER SAID, THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE PRETTY.

I'M SURE WE CAN TAKE IT.

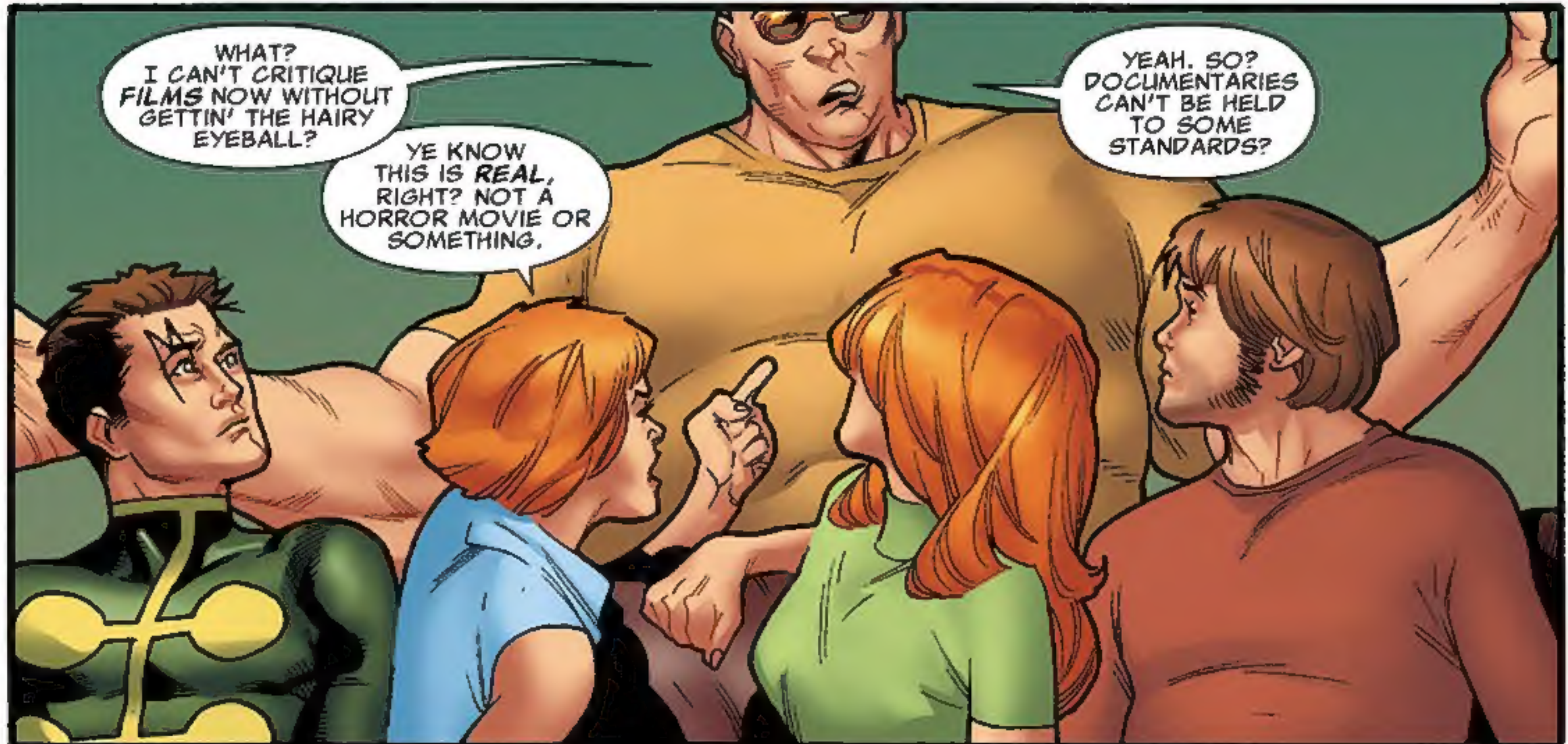


AAAAAAAAAAAAA

OH MUH GOD. THAT'S... THAT'S HORRIBLE.



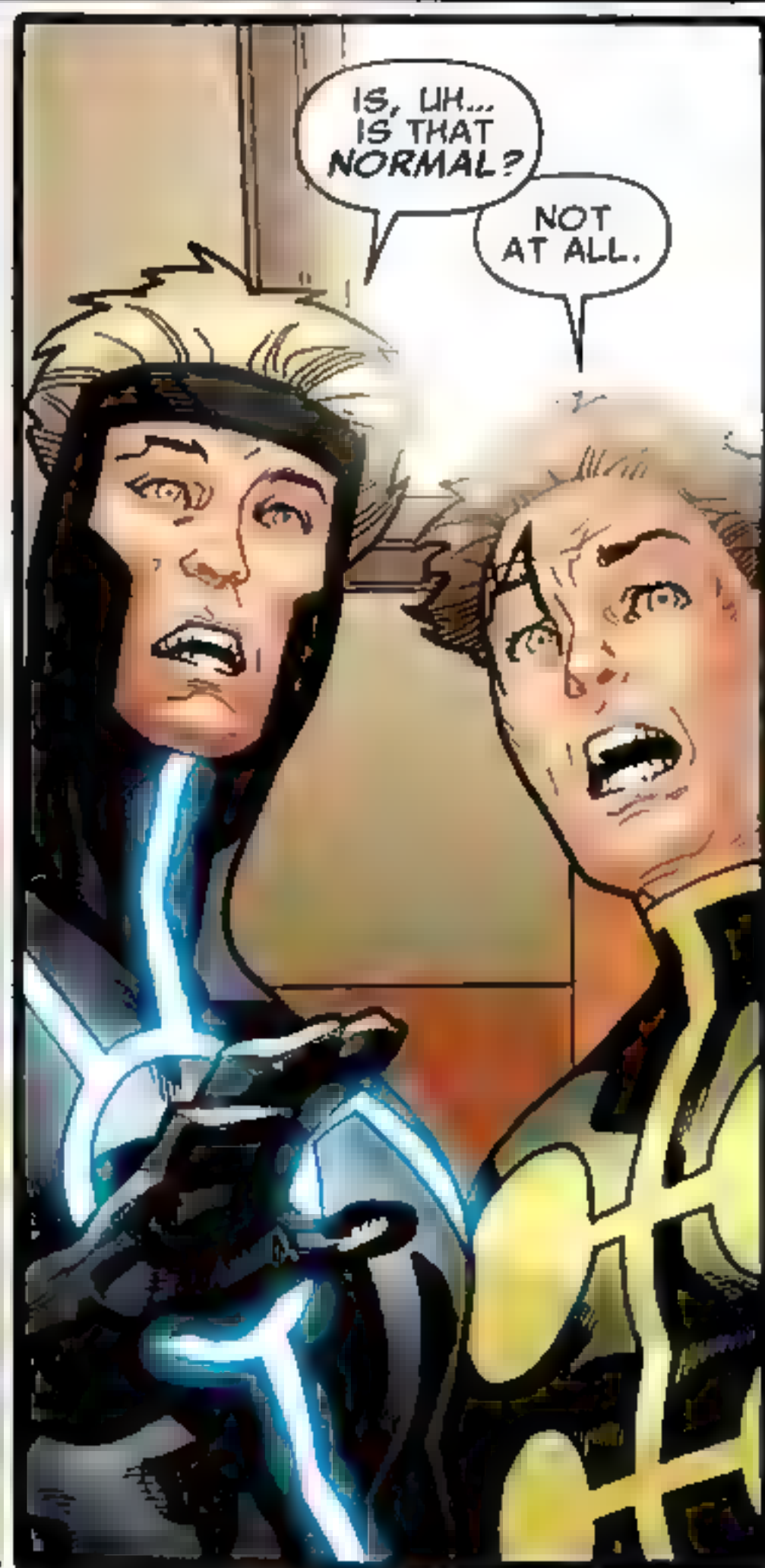
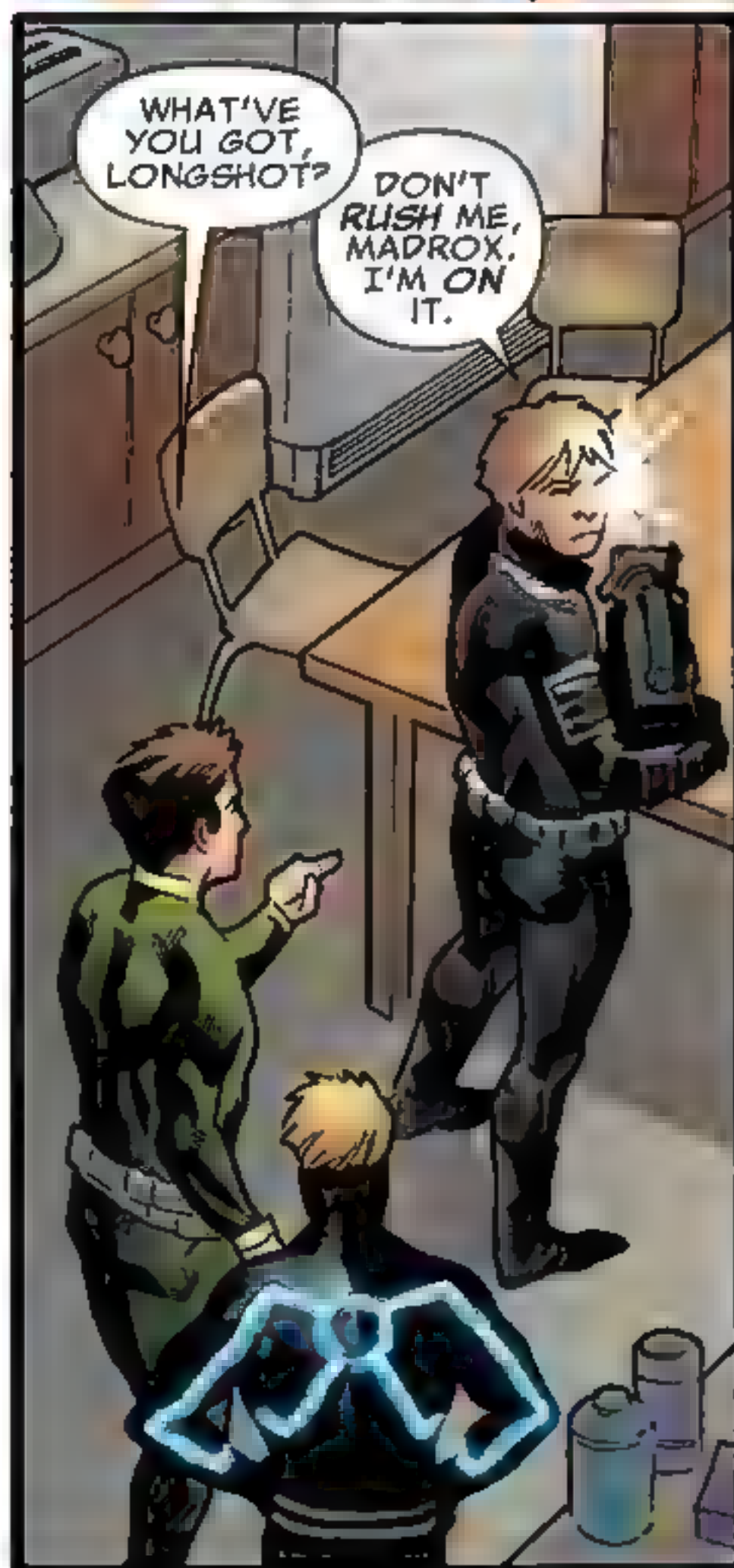
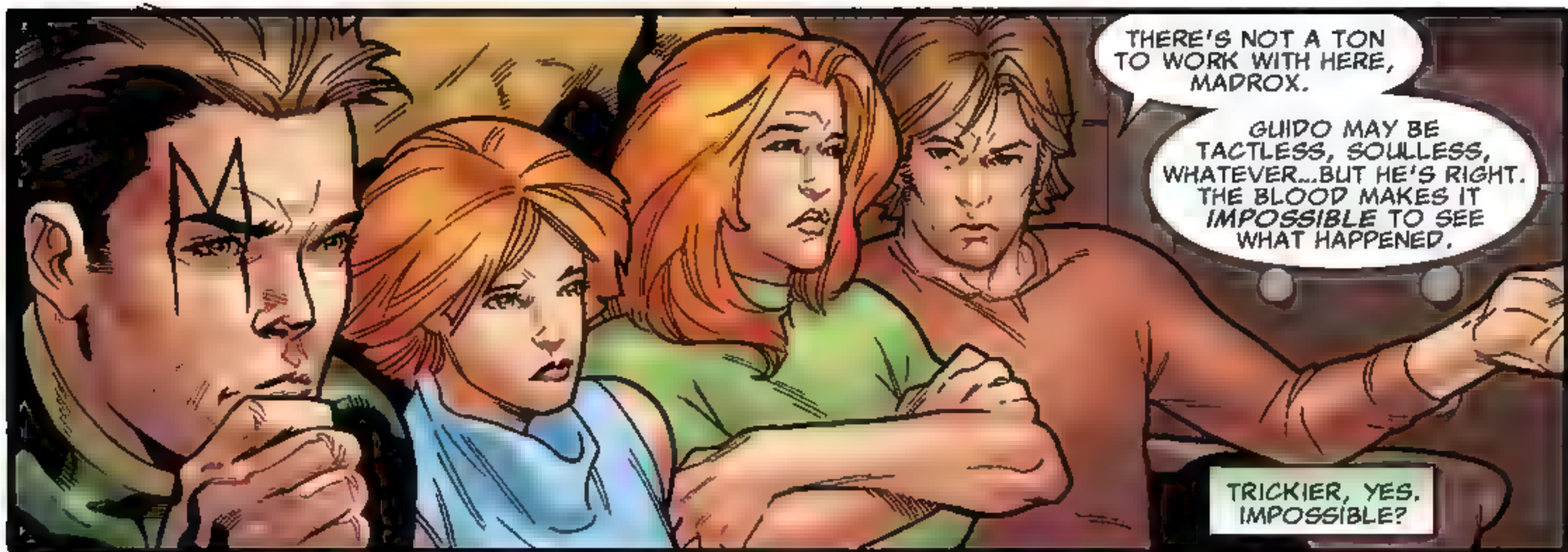
YEAH. WHERE'S THE SHOT COMPOSITION? AND WITH ALL THAT BLOOD ON THE LENS YA CAN HARDLY SEE THE DISEMBOWELING.



WHAT? I CAN'T CRITIQUE FILMS NOW WITHOUT GETTIN' THE HAIRY EYEBALL?

YE KNOW THIS IS REAL, RIGHT? NOT A HORROR MOVIE OR SOMETHING.

YEAH. SO? DOCUMENTARIES CAN'T BE HELD TO SOME STANDARDS?

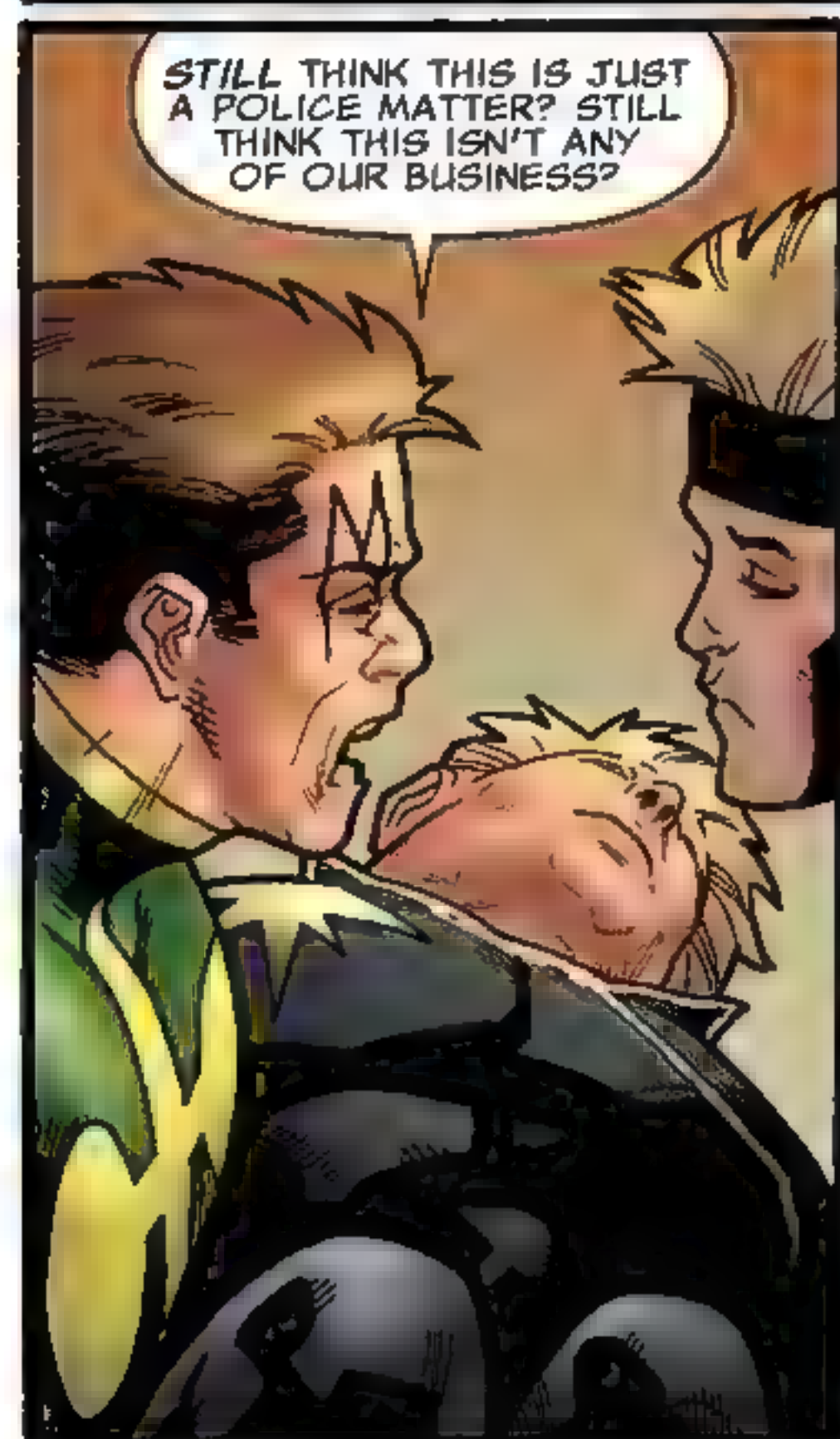


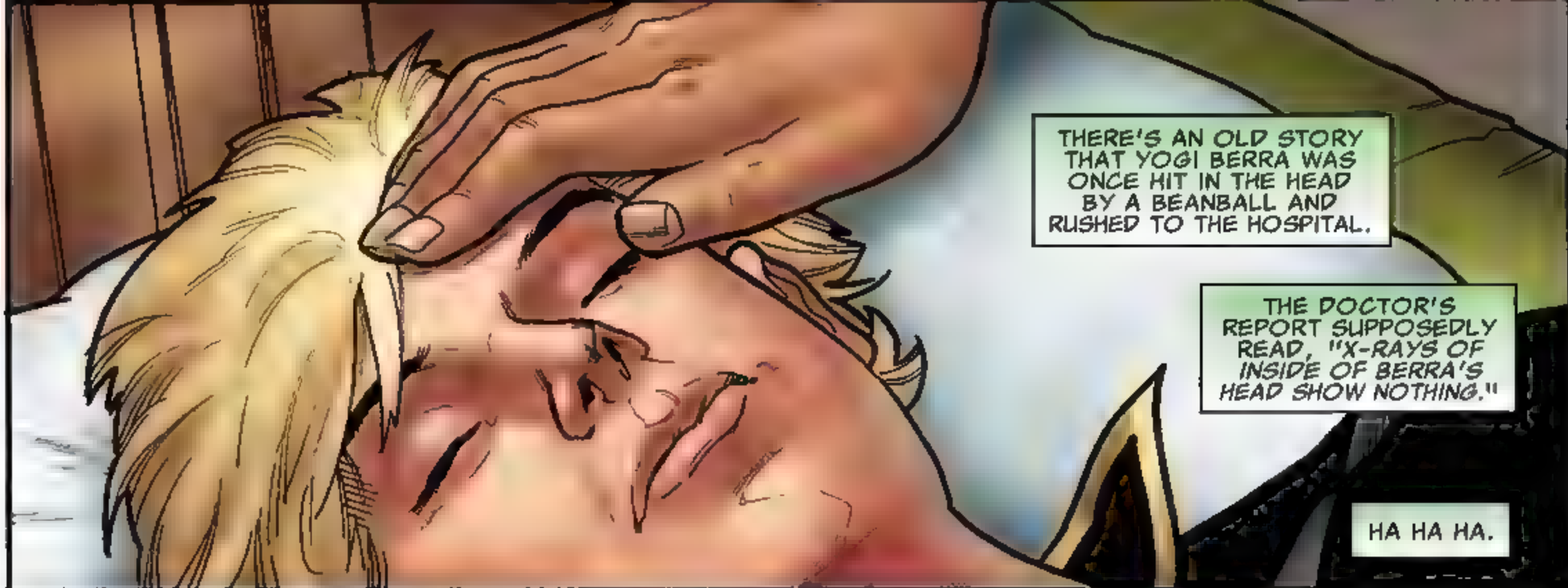


YOUR EYE OFFENDS ME. I SHALL HAVE IT OUT.

AAAAHHH!!!



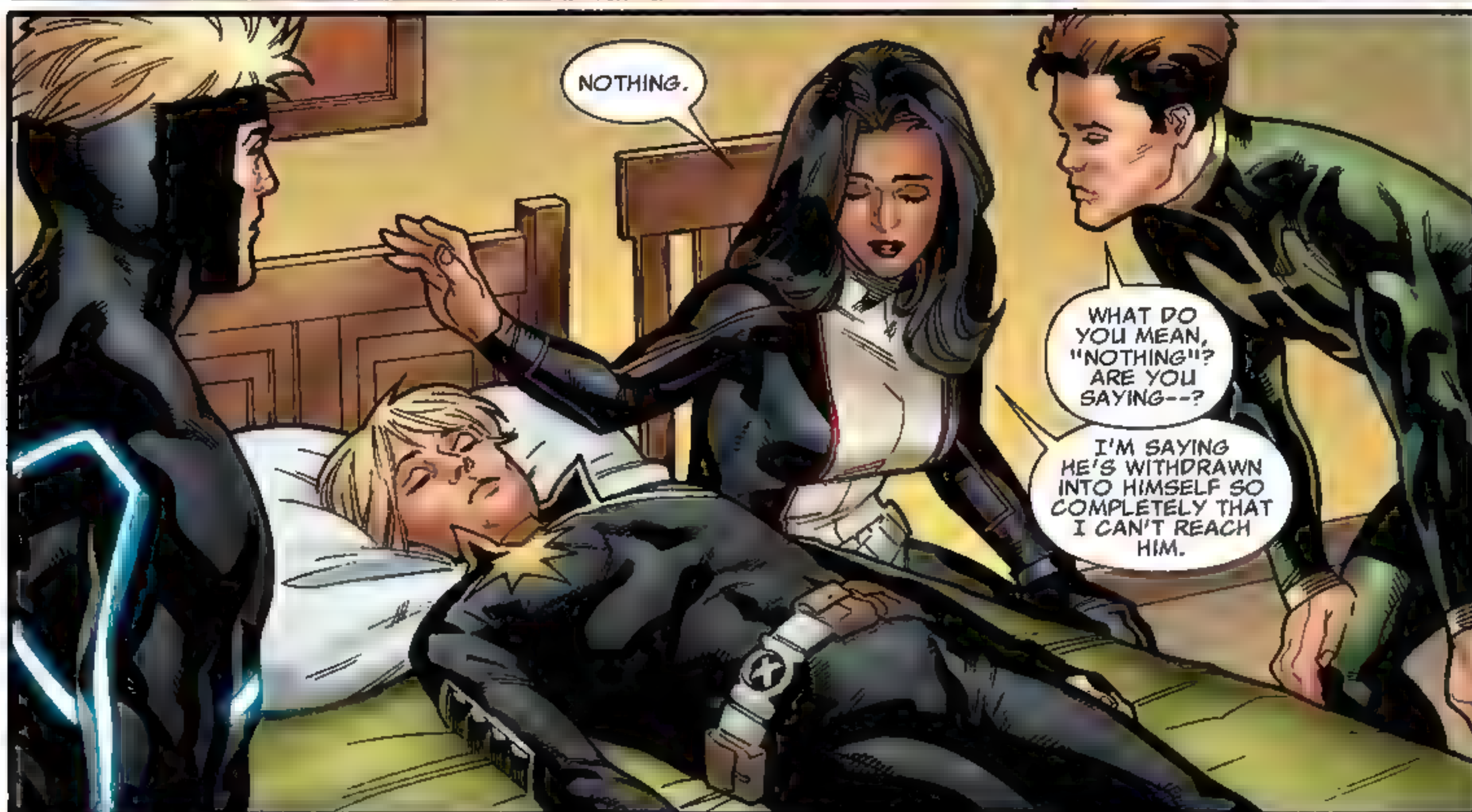




THERE'S AN OLD STORY THAT YOGI BERRA WAS ONCE HIT IN THE HEAD BY A BEANBALL AND RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL.

THE DOCTOR'S REPORT SUPPOSEDLY READ, "X-RAYS OF INSIDE OF BERRA'S HEAD SHOW NOTHING."

HA HA HA.



NOTHING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NOTHING"? ARE YOU SAYING--?

I'M SAYING HE'S WITHDRAWN INTO HIMSELF SO COMPLETELY THAT I CAN'T REACH HIM.

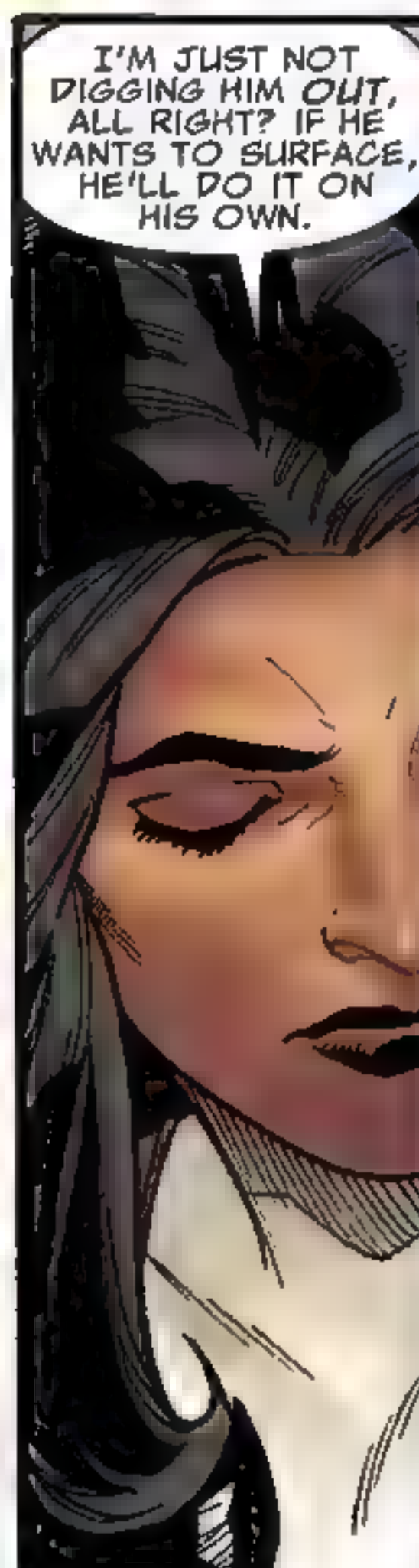


HOW DEEP DID YOU GO?

AS DEEP AS I CARE TO.

HE'S NOT HUMAN, HAVOK. I MEAN, MORE NOT HUMAN THAN MOST OF US.

I DON'T--

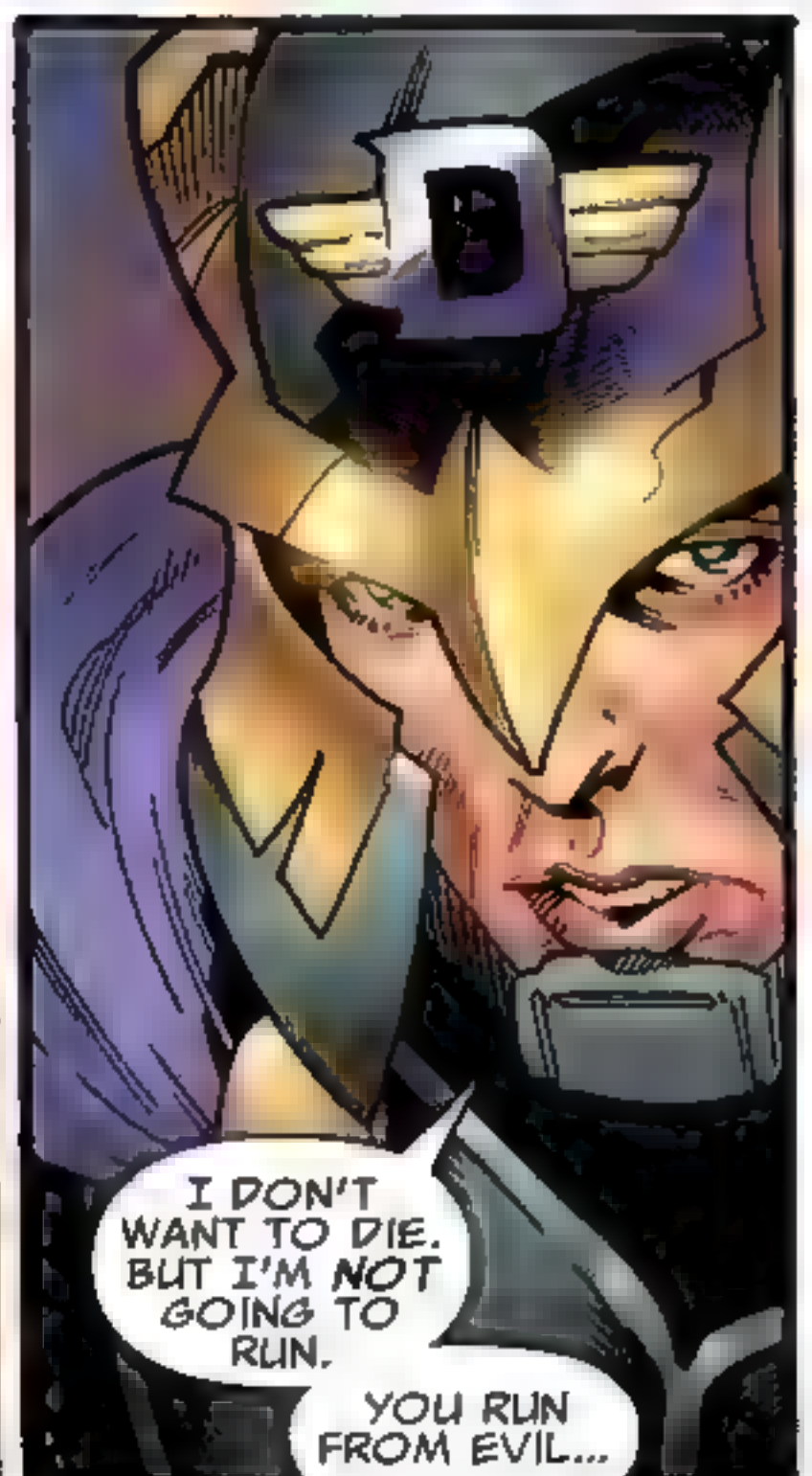
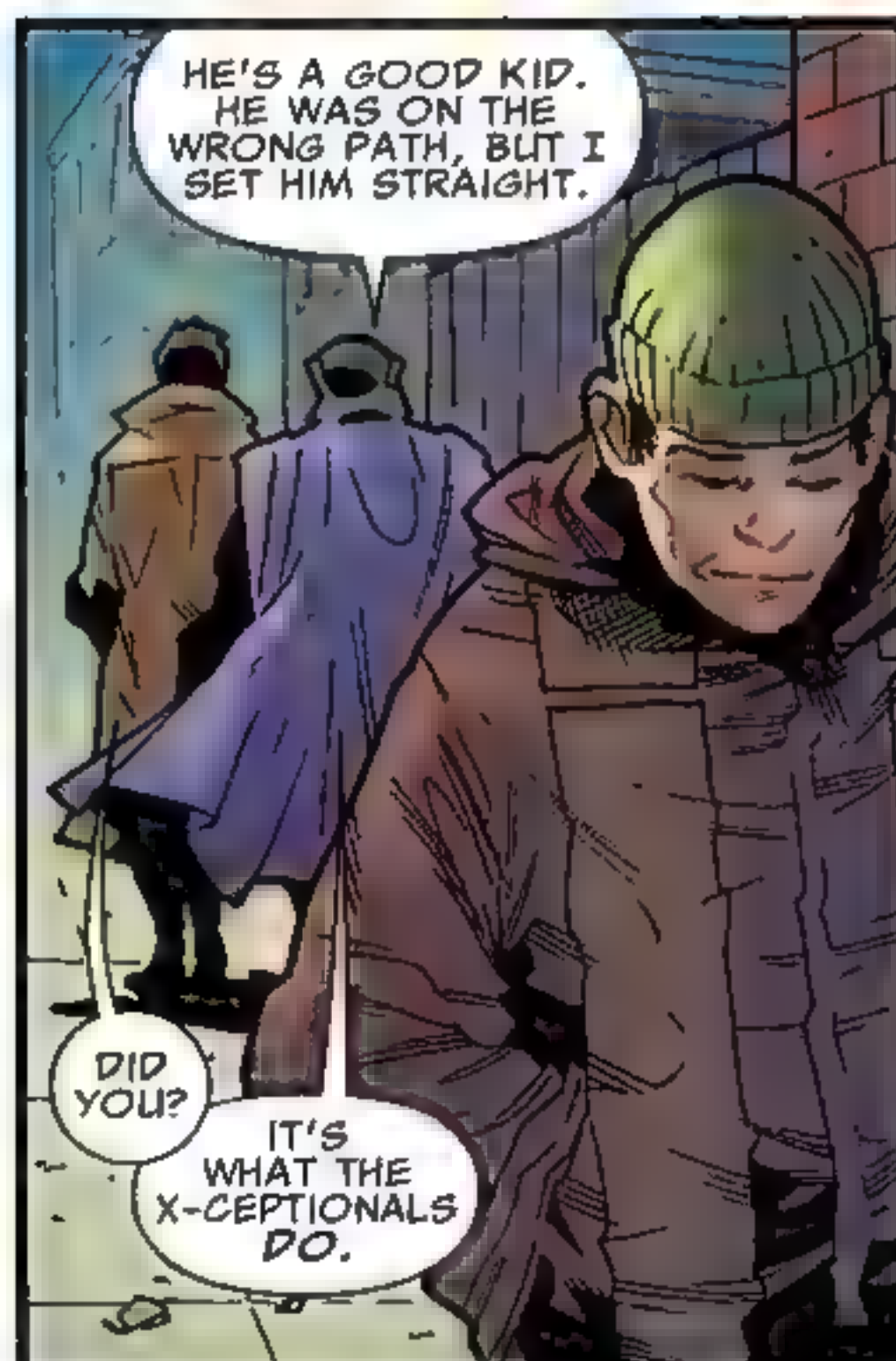


I'M JUST NOT DIGGING HIM OUT, ALL RIGHT? IF HE WANTS TO SURFACE, HE'LL DO IT ON HIS OWN.



FINE, AND I'M DEALING WITH THIS ON MY OWN.







"...AND ALL IT DOES IS FOLLOW YOU."



SO FAR SIGHT DIDN'T CARE TO JOIN US ON PATROL?

FAR SIGHT NEVER GOES ON PATROL. HE SITS IN THE HEADQUARTERS AND MAKES PREDICTIONS TO "GUIDE" US.

I DON'T GET THE POINT OF HIS SHITICK.



ACTUALLY, SUCH A PERSON CAN BE OF USE, PROVIDED SHE...

...I MEAN, HE...KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.

DOES HE?

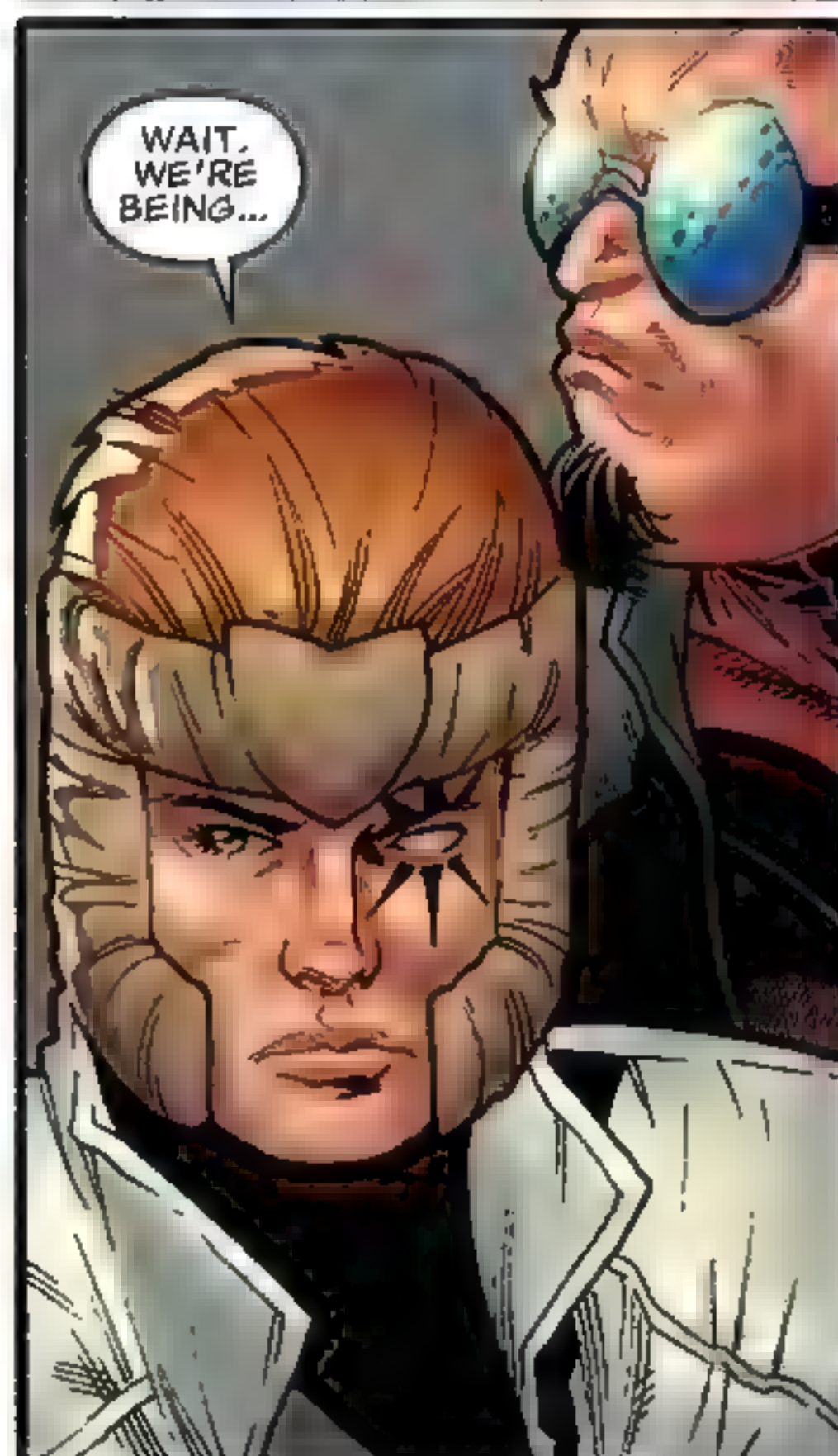


Y'ASK ME, HE TENDS TO STAY PRETTY VAGUE SO THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS, HE CAN SAY HE CALLED IT.

KIND OF LIKE HAVING GOOD LUCK POWER.

WHAT?

NOTHING. JUST--



WAIT, WE'RE BEING...



...FOLLOWED?

STRANGE. I COULD'VE SWORN THERE WAS...



NOW WHERE DID BUZZKILL GO?



UP TO
YOUR OLD
TRICKS,
ALFONSE?

I DUNNO
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT--



YEAH? LEMME
GUESS: YOU WERE
HOLDING THIS FOR
A FRIEND.

WHAT DID
I TELL YOU
ABOUT
DEALING?

NO
FOR YOUR
SISTER.

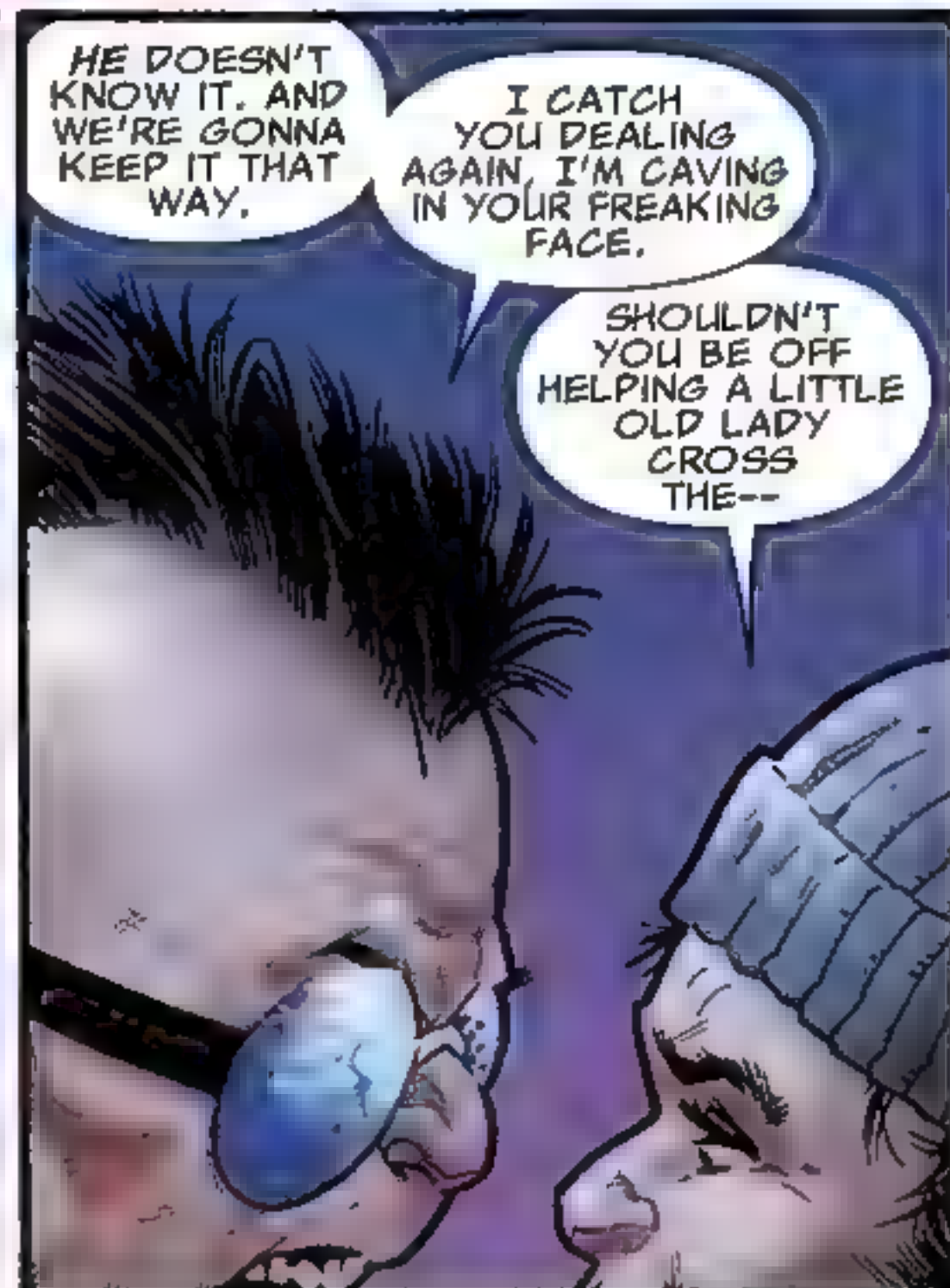
NEVER DO
IT FROM THE
BOTTOM OF
THE DECK.



ARRHH!
SON OF
A--

WHAT WOULD
LORD DEFENDER
DO IF HE KNEW
ABOUT THIS?

MAN, THAT
GUY'S A JOKE.
YOU KNOW IT,
EVERYBODY
KNOWS IT...



HE DOESN'T
KNOW IT, AND
WE'RE GONNA
KEEP IT THAT
WAY.

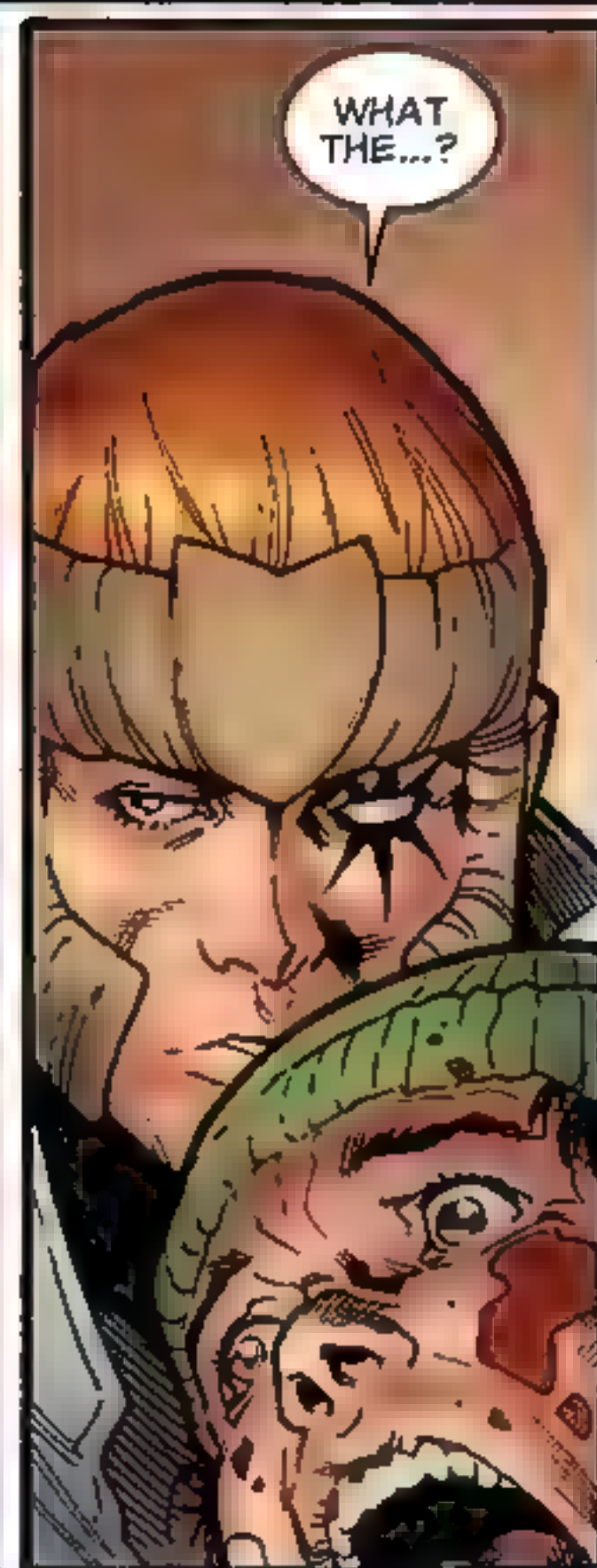
I CATCH
YOU DEALING
AGAIN, I'M CAVING
IN YOUR FREAKING
FACE.

SHOULDN'T
YOU BE OFF
HELPING A LITTLE
OLD LADY
CROSS
THE--



WHAT THE
HELL?

ARRRRHHH--!





YOU
HEARD
HIM. THERE
I IS.



YOU...ARE
DEAD.



YOU...
ARE ON.



X-PERT WITNESSES

WRITE TO US AT
OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK
"OK TO PRINT!"

Peter David here, welcoming you, friends, on behalf of the intrepid editorial department to the lettercol that never ends. Letters may be edited for length, but not content. So let's see what's going on this month...

Dear PAD:

I am writing to you to express my frustration about my inability to buy X-Factor. It sells out every week at my LCS. The last issue I was able to buy was 228. Even then, it was the only copy in the store. This past week, I asked the clerk what I would have to do to get a copy of X-Factor. He said that if I don't make it to the store within 24 hours of it hitting the shelves, then I am out of luck. I work during the week, so I can't make it to the LCS until the weekend. By then, it's gone. Am I the only one experiencing this issue? I don't understand why retailers don't order more copies when this book consistently sells out. Anyway, until Guido appears on Dancing with the Stars, make mine Marvel.

Brett Norton

First of all, Brett, thanks **LOADS** for forcing me now to scuttle Guido's appearance on Dancing. Why? Because we don't want to lose a reader since yes, you're actually correct: you're **NOT** the only person experiencing this problem. In today's economy, and with the number of titles coming out, comics shops are thrilled when they don't have to sit on overstock of a book. If they know that they can sell out a certain number of copies of one title, then that's the quantity they stick with. And who can blame 'em? It's hard out there for a retailer. But there is hope: most retailers offer a pull service where you can order a title in advance and they'll set aside a copy for you. That way you're guaranteed not to miss a single issue. That would be the advice I'd offer to you and every other reader who finds getting "X-Factor" a hit-or-miss proposition. Heck, if enough readers do that, retailers might even be willing to take the guaranteed sales as incentive to take a flier on ordering more copies so that new readers will actually be able to notice the book on the shelves and give it a try.

Dear X-Pert Witnesses:

Now THAT is what I've been waiting to see since the current X-Factor series began! I didn't realize how much I missed Havok until seeing him in action! True to the character and his growth, Mr. Summers has gained some formidable battle strategy skills, yet consistent with his prior characterization in the book, he is still fallible and goofy (such as not anticipating his own soldiers falling prey to Terry's power—an antic worthy of a "lol"). The scene worked very well: I hope we can look forward to more battle scenes with the characters using their powers in action.

In response to the letter column in this issue: it doesn't matter if you are producing 93 issues a year--us fans are ready for 93x93! In the past, PAD has written about his dilemma in involving X-Factor

in the latest X-crossover or Marvel Event. Non X/Marvel fans who read this book because PAD is the author don't like it when the current storyline is delayed for an event involvement. On the other hand, some fans (like myself) want to see X-Factor involved with the greater X-universe, and relish X-events because our favorite characters get to party with the whole neighborhood. Joining a cross-over event has the potential to lose readers as well as gain readers. I am writing to ask if doing a mini-series, such as the X-Force Fear Itself mini, is a feasible solution to the dilemma? Layla mentioned that Wolverine is now more closely involved with X-Factor (as an X-liaison, I presume), so I see this as a step towards that direction.

Alex "Living Silver" Sanchez

We've batted around notions for limited series, Alex, but with so many issues coming out in the course of a year, there's only so much editorial time and talent to devote to it. Besides, if a crossover "X-Factor" story flows organically from the events in a major event (such as happened with "Schism") then I don't see any reason not to simply include it in the ongoing series. I figure if a story's good, then people will enjoy it, crossover or no. Manufacturing a limited series solely to take advantage of a crossover...that doesn't really work for me.

Mr. David:

Thanks for continuing writing my favorite X-Title since the old Gee Cee Days. (Genetically Challenged) term patented by Guido. I would love for you to write Mr. Sinister again, Deadpool, Exodus (his first appearance was in X-Factor you know?) She-Hulk (again) & a War & Piece tribute with Red Hulk & X-Factor. And Pip the Troll is the Main Man!! Hilarious! Don't talk to me when I am watching porn, indeed! Now...on to some numbered questions:

1: Any chance Madrox can bring a new unbreakable jar of mayo to the townhouse?

2: When Darwin comes back, can you PLEASE write another X-Factor title, Uncanny X-Factor?

3: On this team have Quicksilver, Darwin, Forge, Sabretooth, Polaris, & Havok as team leader?

4: I think the roster is large enough now. I am really enjoying what you are doing & are you going to have the X-Factor team part of the Avengers vs X-Men war?

5: So in a previous letters page, you state Shatterstar is not a mutant. I have been arguing for the last year on if Longshot is a mutant or not. What says you on the matter, oh wise & power PAD?

Jermaine L. Ransom
Rockford, ILL

A lot of questions, Jermaine. For space reasons, I'll try to buzz through them as quick as I can:

1: No. Too obvious a joke now.

2: No plans for a second X-title with our cast, but I guess you never know.

3: Well, let's see if it happens in the first place.

4: See, I happen to think THAT cast is large enough, so no, X-Factor won't be involved.

5: Same rules apply.

Peter,

I must say I've always been a huge X-Factor fan, but it amazes me how you manage to constantly make the series better and better with each issue! Every month seems to get better and I love it. It's great finally seeing Madrox and Layla together, but I have to ask...now that we've seen the alternate dimension where Rahne (or rather her daughter?) killed Madrox and Layla on their wedding day, is that no longer a prophecy waiting to be fulfilled in main continuity? Or should fans still be trembling in fear of that possibility unfolding? Either way, keep up the awesome work (and perhaps throw in some more Layla/Madrox scenes whenever possible?).

-Mathias Lewis
Oceanside, Ca

I'll put it to you this way, Mathias: We've now presented a scenario in which what Layla foresaw could well be an event in another dimension. Indeed, if you go back and look at the first time it was presented, you'll notice there was no "M" tattoo on either of their faces, so that would suggest that it had to be an alternate world. Now whether we're going to see a repeat of it in the Marvel 616 world, believe it or not, there will be a definitive answer eventually. A major piece of the puzzle will be coming your way with issue #340, entitled "Run, Layla, Run." Check it out.

X-Factor team:

Couldn't help but notice at the end of this that Monet appears to have followed Pip's instruction in an earlier issue, and done her zip up. For shame! Unlike him, some of us never got tired of staring...

Paul Tapner
Dorset, Britain

Well, maybe when the weather warms up, Paul...

Peter & Team,

Thank you for consistently putting an outstanding book on the shelves of comic stores everywhere! I, like so many of your readers, thoroughly enjoy all of the elements that make X-Factor the book that it is.

I was so nervous with Jamie's monologue at the beginning of issue #233 as he was seemingly second-guessing his decision to be intimate with Layla, only to have her reassure him immediately. I'm loving having him and Layla being together...and happy. I hope that it lasts. Keep up the good work.

Make Mine Marvel,
Adam White
Pittsburgh, PA

We certainly aim to please, Adam. You keep reading, and we'll keep producing 'em for you.

-PAD

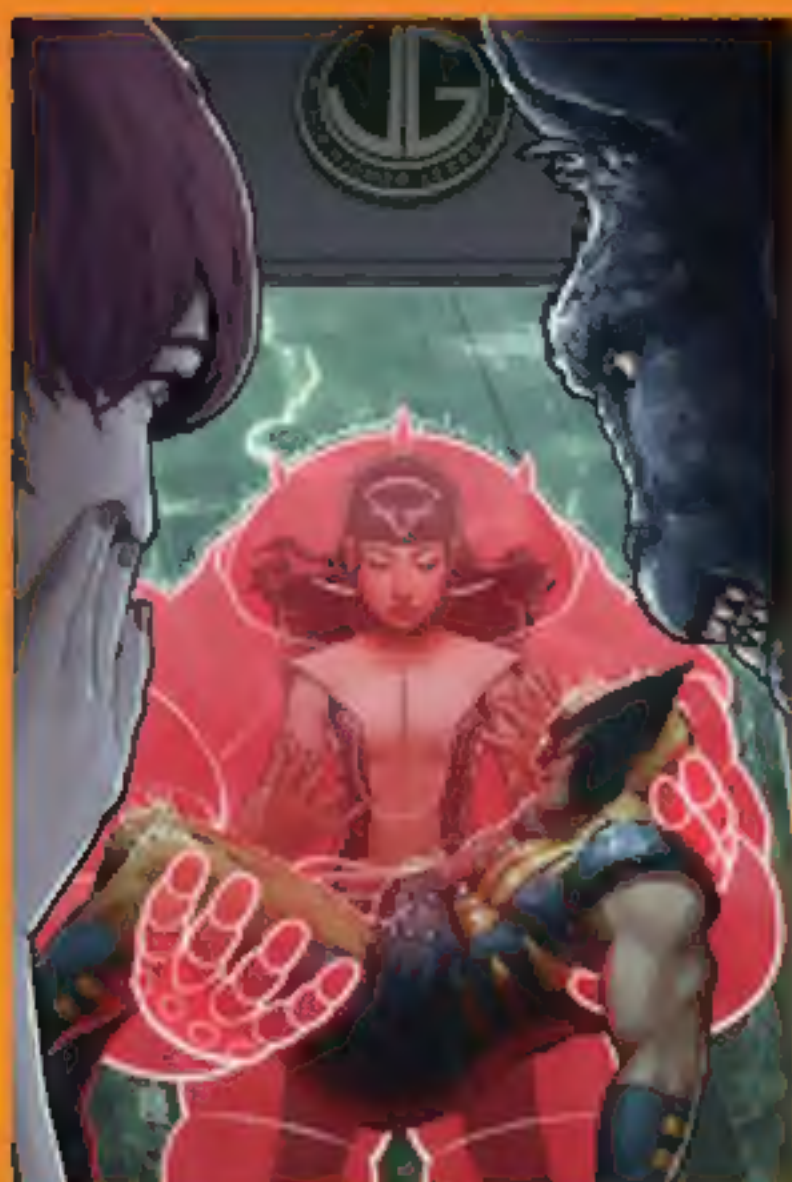
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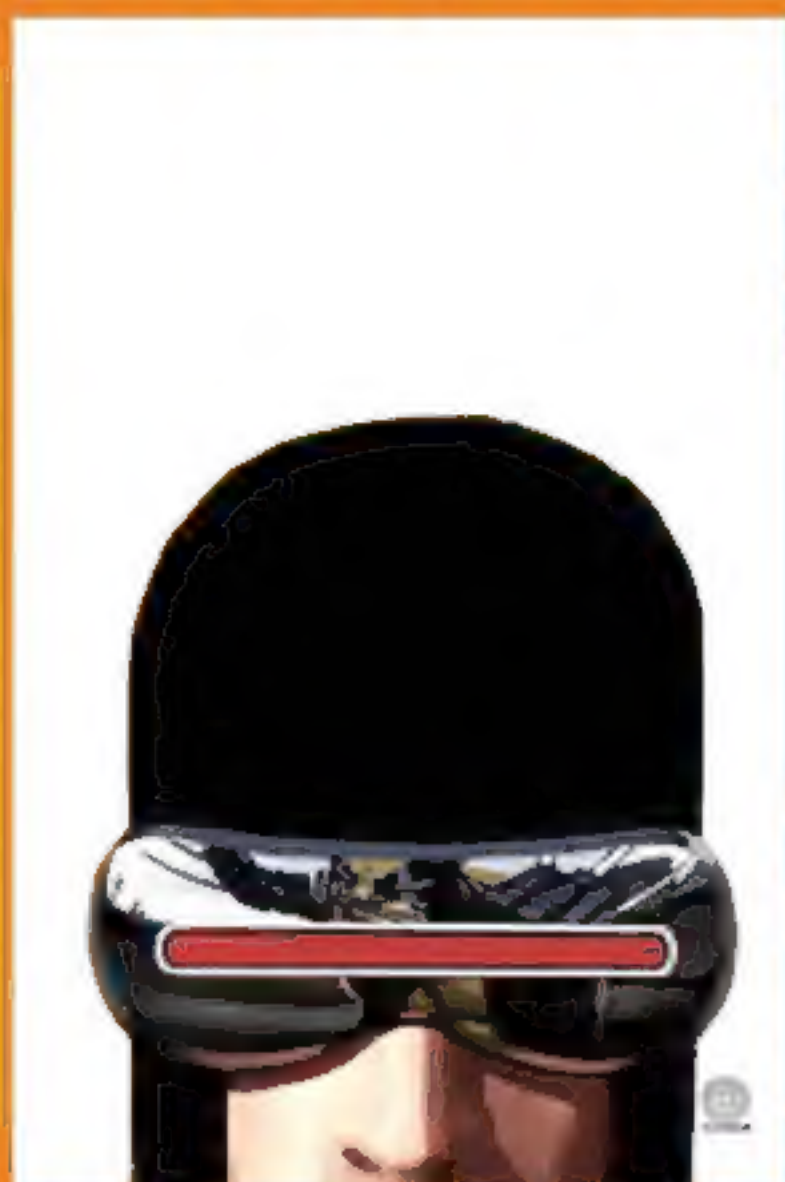
DAVID / KIRK - 05/16/12



MORE FROM TEAM WOLVERINE...



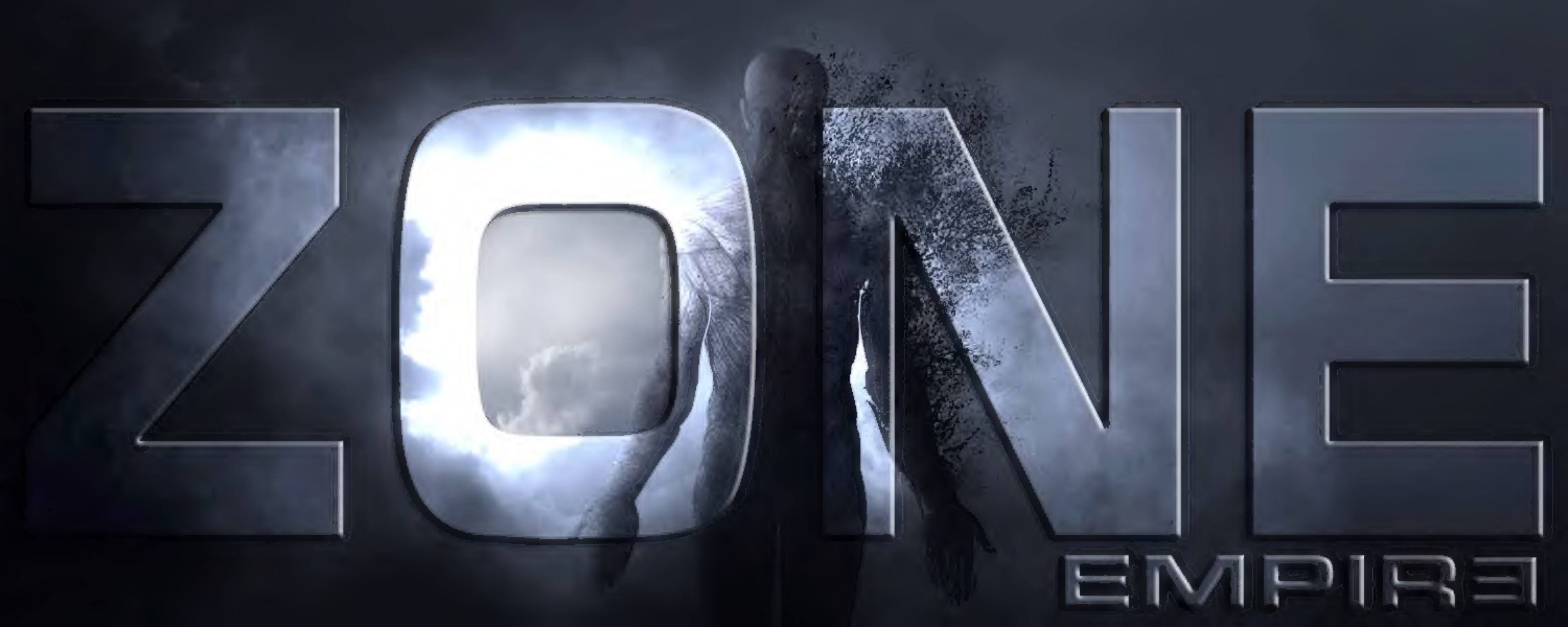
**WOLVERINE AND THE X-MEN:
ALPHA & OMEGA #5**
WOOD / BROOKS
ON SALE NOW!



WOLVERINE AND THE X-MEN #10
AARON / BACHALO
05/ 09 / 12



UNCANNY X-FORCE #25
REMENDER / MCKONE
05/ 09 / 12



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